

Governor's Forest Health Council
Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body
Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE –
Governor's Forest Health Council

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Forest Health Council and to the general public that the **Forest Health Council** will hold a meeting open to the public:

Arizona Associations of Counties Building
1910 West Jefferson Street, Board Room
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
November 10, 2011
9 AM – 12 PM
Tele Conference Number: 1-940-287-4000
Access Code: 395798

Minutes (draft)

1. Call to Order – 9:05 am Co-Chair, Molly Pitts

Members Present:

Co-Chair Ethan Aumack, Co-Chair Molly Pitts, Pascal Berlioux, Don Berry, Diane Vosick for Wally Covington, Rob Davis, Steve Gatewood, Larry Stephenson for Mark Herrington, Scott Hunt, Christine Dawe for Thomas Klabunde, Ron Williams, and Darrell Willis.

Members via Tel-Conference:

Steve Rosenstock and Kevin Kinsall

Members Absent:

Mayor Sara Presler, Todd Schulke, and Sue Sitko

Public:

Patrick Rappold, Marcus Selig, Beth Nehring

2. Approval of the Minutes from the September FHC Meeting ~ Approved

- Steve Gatewood moved for approval, Don Berry second.
- Minutes approved.

3. **Summary of Council business since last FHC meeting ~ Ethan Aumack or Molly Pitts**

- Molly stated that she along with Ethan, Scott and Diane attended a field trip with the Legislators last week. There was very good conversation with them. Ethan stated that it was good to see the Legislators take interest in the forests.
- Scott stated that the House Water Committee consisting of Chair Representative Russ Jones, Vice Chair Chester Crandall, Representative Lynn Pancrazi, and Representative Peggy Judd attended the field trip. There was a very good discussion regarding forest restoration and water. The tour included the Hardy and Schultz Fire areas along with seeing the tornado damage and NAU Rx burn.
- Diane stated that they were able to see the water link to forest restoration. The State Wildland Fire Crews were in the Centennial Forest area at the Fisher burn doing a mop-up where the legislatures were able to see the crews in action and speak with them.
- At the tornado damage site, James Perkins, owner of a small business firm, Perkins Timber Harvesting, was doing salvage work. The chips go to the White Mountains. The wood value is \$15,000 over the entire 1000 acres.
- Ethan asked Scott if there will be any follow-up. Representative Jones has asked NAU for a presentation on forest restoration/watershed policy.
- Molly stated that the subcommittee has been working on the recommendations from the summer wildfire season.

4. **Council Representation update ~ Scott Hunt**

- Scott reported that the Board of Commissions has nominations for the following: Sue Sitko; Paul Summerfelt, alternate for the Mayor; Kent Bushman to replace Mike Neal-APS; Scott Hunt to replace Vicki Christiansen; Don Walters from NAU Building Association Real Estate. Other vacancies are being worked on.
- Don Berry reported that the Hopi Tribe expressed interest in becoming a member of the FHC.
- Rob Smith, Sierra Club, resigned from the Council.
- Scott reported that Bruce Hallin – SRP has been approved.
- Scott asked if anyone knew Diane Goilia of Flagstaff. She has put in an application. No one new who she was.
- Molly stated that Daric Knight was the current chair for NRCD. Requested that he submit an application.
- Ethan inquired about the length of the process and how it works. – applicants are required to apply online with the Board and Commissions; then to Kevin for formal appointment process
- Molly stated that we need to continue to work to fill vacancies on the FHC Needs for new/replacement member-representation (as required by the Governor's Executive Order) from town in Southern Arizona.
- Once everything is current, Cam can update website. Also need to confirm email addresses.

5. **State of the State Report ~ Scott Hunt and Kevin Kinsall**

- Scott reported that he has been in recent communication with cooperators over fire payments. Still waiting on Cost Share Agreements.
- Ethan asked Scott about the cost of this year's fire season. The instate total was \$15-\$18 million dollars and the Wallow was \$109 million. Scott stated that he was preparing for an Ad Hoc Hearing and the large fires across the state were \$210 million.
- Darrell Willis, City of Prescott, said Prescott Fire Department has \$1.2 million in payments due from state and federal fires this year. Most of their costs are for a Type I Crew.
- Scott stated that there have been delays in the federal payments and the cooperators have been notified.
- Steve Gatewood asked Scott what the prediction was for next year. Scott stated similar to the last fire season. See what the La Nina does.

6. **WUI Forum ~ Molly Pitts**

- State Forestry has sent out invitations to the upcoming Arizona Wildfire Forums: Lessons Learned in 2011 and Community Protection Going Forward. One will be held on Wednesday, December 14 in Eagar and the second one will be held on Friday, December 16 in Sierra Vista. Molly and Darrell will be attending the Eagar session. Steve Gatewood agreed to attend the Sierra Vista meeting.
- Diane asked Ron if the fire activity has caused the insurance industry to approach looking at changes.
- Ron stated that it is a case by case basis. There are 900 insurers, each has one underwriting criteria and to what degree X, Y, Z. This needs to be addressed at the National level.
- Diane asked if policies are written to be Firewise.
- Molly asked that invitations be sent to those in attendance at last week's field trip.
- Please RSVP to Beth if you plan to attend the Forum.

7. **Corporation Commission ~ Molly Pitts**

- Molly and Scott have been working with the Corporation Commission.
- Meetings with the Corporation Commission are scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2012. Looking for individuals to participate. Molly, Rob, Marcus or Ethan. One hour will be done with each member.
- Subject matter overview: forestry statistics; biomass; wood products; forest residue; biomass energy; CWPP; Firewise; and renewable energy standards.
- Christine asked what the hope of the outcome of these meetings was. Molly stated that we hope to educate them on above.
- Molly stated they would schedule a call to do brainstorming before this meeting.

- Molly asked if the FHC meeting can be changed to the third Thursday, January 19 due to the Corporation Commission meeting being held on January 18. Will ask Cam to update the website with the new date.

8. CFLRP ~ Diane Vosick

- Diane sent out an email requesting that CFLRP be fully funded the full \$40 million.
- Christine reported that states of Utah and New Mexico were writing letters to budget committee pressing for full funding. This is consistent with the President's budget.
- *Ethan and Scott will do recommendation of draft letter for submission to Kevin.*

9. 4-FRI Update ~ Christine Dawe

- Technical review committee is winding down.
- Recommendations are ready to go to Corbin Newman, then forwarded to Contracting Officer for review before Christmas. Final ready the first part of January.

10. Working Group Updates

- *Coordination Oversight Group/ Climate ~ Christine Dawe*
Nothing to report
- *Utilization and Economic Issues ~ Molly Pitts*
 - Molly reported work had been completed with Governor's Survey on the Healthy Forest Initiative.
 - Summary of the survey showed most were not aware of the program including Department of Commerce Authority
 - Need active public awareness protocol
 - Incentives, i.e., property, fuel and sales tax
 - Patrick Rappold, Utilization & Marketing Specialist with State Forestry, provided the FHC with the report on the preliminary assessment of wood use by Arizona's State Government Agencies (see attached information provided by Patrick).
 - Patrick reported that round guardrail posts is a Midwest system. Arizona will do that on new construction, but need funding for current system. Cost of \$80,000 to test to repair/replace with round instead of square. State replaces 70,000 posts per year. Pine could be done by several other individuals.
 - Christine asked if ADOT has agreed to work with us. They have. National testing needs to be done. Is there any leftover money to use on this project? Patrick to speak with Commerce. Brian Sherman hasn't gotten back with him.

- ***Forest Plan Revisions ~ Diane Vosick***
 - Diane presented the forest plans draft letter. We need to review and edit. Urge desire to maximize and have forest plans evolving with good monitoring and are adaptive.
 - Steve Gatewood stated that this is a hefty document. Need a summary to Diane. Stay at high level sending to Corbin, copying Forest Supervisors.
 - Christine stated this is an effective way for them to be transmitted through the organization.
 - Steve – they will look at this line by line.
 - Ethan – planning teams are critical partners.
 - Review with Kevin and ask Governor to transmit to Corbin and Chief of Forest Service. Reference to this document for more detail. Have Governor sign a one page letter with this document attached.
 - Larry concurs with recommendation.
 - *Scott and Kevin to draft formal letter for this attachment.*
 - Ethan – Diane did a fabulous job on the letter. FHC will have a couple of weeks to review and comment. Incorporate all changes and get drafted.
 - Kevin – what is the timing?
 - Christine – January for rest of plans.
 - Molly – finish by first week of December, to Kevin first week of January.
 - Scott – Christine sent plan status out. Attach that to the FHC letter
 - *Timeline: comments on to Diane by December 1; rework and to Kevin by December 12.*
 - Ethan – Audience – Corbin, Chief relevant to the planning rule. Appropriate cc's to all Forest Supervisors.
 - Ethan – look at language; more strategic value; get from where we are to where we want to be
 - Diane – two documents ago proposed another alternative highlighting the most critical issues; different forest plans, different ways; water management with vegetation management.
 - *Action: Small group: Diane, Rob, Scott, Marcus and Christine (Advisor) Send timelines to FHC members.*
- ***Smoke Issues ~ Steve Gatewood***
 - Prescribed burning is done thru ADEQ. Acres requested high in 1999 214, 000; low 49,000. Approval is on a day to day basis. Quarterly report shows most burning was done in the fall and winter.
 - 2001-140,000 acres prescribed fire; when forest restoration is done Ron Sharon has said that there is 60,000 acres of open wildland for prescribed fire. We will need to look at smoke management issues.
 - All stats are related to smoke management; rangelands. Broadcast is different than pile burning.

- ***Interaction with WGA – Ethan Aumack***
 - FHC Subcommittee has been meeting. When is the policy going to hit the ground? Talk about west wide monitoring; large scale treatment subcommittee; update in January. Main issue landscape restoration.
 - Resolutions were passed by WGA.
 - ***Action: Ethan to send updates on these and give update at January FHC meeting.***
- ***Recommendations of Arizona's Governor's Forest Health Council following the 2011 Fire Season ~ Marcus Selig, Facilitator***
 - Policy recommendations. Focus on general recommendations and how to get this finished by December 2011. Transmit to the Governor by end of December. Need to have completed within the next six weeks. Make suggested changes by end of meeting, email, phone calls, or another meeting in December.
 - Larry – ***look at order of recommendations and place fire related first; start with Governor first on page 10***
 - Ethan – terms of format and content have been worked on in smaller group; this is coming for the first time to this group. Some issues still need to be addressed.
 - Marcus – the group met the first week in October and also two weeks ago. More stuff was added at those times.
 - Treatments and outreach – one to three recommendations per sub topic. Need to review each section for consistency and clarity.
 - **IMPROVING FOREST HEALTH**
 - ***Section One – Collaborative Planning & NEPA***
 - Scott – ***include other Interior agencies, BIA, NPS, USFWS, Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Interior***
 - Ethan – ***address the rationale for collaborative planning to be more important of meeting goals for fire and community protection (fire hazard reduction and forest health).***
 - Christine – ***How to incorporate outcome from groups and incorporate them within the legal parameters***
 - Diane – say it is our chance to acknowledge the validity of this recommendation. ***Recognize network at the landscape levels is needed due to scale of fires and ecosystem changes.***
 - Steve – suggest that agencies do RFP at the same time as NEPA process
 - ***Section Two – Cross Jurisdictional Planning (add & Implementation)***
 - ***State can coordinate with Feds through Arizona Fire Action Plan***
 - FHC supports Good Neighbor Authority
 - Christine spoke with Region 2 and couldn't get and feedback
 - Scott talked to Colorado and Utah. Worked well in both states. Colorado State Forester is also President of NASF
 - Rob recommended authority be extended

- Scott – grants now under state and private; *look outside of state and private for other grant opportunities*
- **Section Three – Monitoring & Adaptive Management**
 - Steve – *first paragraph should be worded differently*
 - Ethan – *identify the correct and most efficient monitoring.*
Urgency and need is greater; increase the opportunity for efficiency; do better work for less cost.
 - Steve – *indicate when, where, how management actions should be changed.*
- **Section Four – Community Protection**
 - Ron – *on page 6 change to education such entities in WUI Fire Codes, CWPP, Firewise and other techniques. Arizona Insurance Council is willing to work with you in the education planning. Ron will forward his recommendations to Marcus*
 - Christine – explore opportunities to include the adoption of WUI fire codes
 - Darrell – communities can take national WUI codes and adopt them for their community as a starting point
 - Darrell – At Firewise conference Jack Cohen reemphasized that it is not the large crown fires, but the small ones
 - Steve – Smarter land use planning, important to reference report, Fire on the Landscape
- **Section Five – Economic Viability**
 - Pascal – no restriction of slash and residues; there is no limitation of diameter of grinding above 12”. *Pascal to send language from Sierra Club to FHC members.*
 - Steve – renewable energy from non large scale plants
 - FHC should work closely with Corporation Commission to evaluate use of distributed energy production and biomass.
 - *Diane – The survey data should be incorporated within the section of Healthy Forest Enterprise Incentives Program.*
 - *Move Workforce Training recommendations after Arizona Healthy Forest Enterprise paragraph.*
 - Rob – Harvesting, removing, and transportation of products need to look at increase load limits to 35,000 pounds
 - Christine – need to gather information first before we move forward on the road limits
 - Molly – capacity limits will be looked at within the next year
- **Workforce Training**
 - *Change 4FRI to interested*
 - *Change to hundreds of workers from approximately 189 skilled*
 - Scott – Commerce Authority for job training grants
 - Pascal – secure fiscal incentive recommendations – tax credits

- **Public Outreach**
 - *Pascal – change 4FRI and other similar efforts to Arizona state agencies and Federal land management agencies*
- *Comments on the draft recommendation to Marcus by next Wednesday, November 16. Marcus will incorporate changes and have draft back out by COB on Friday, November 18. Council Members will review over email and return additional comments to Marcus by December 1. A meeting can be scheduled second week of December if necessary for face to face review of policy recommendations*

11. Wrap-up ~ Molly Pitts

- Finish filling vacant positions
- Meet with Corporation Commission
- CFLP level – Ethan
- Forest Plan Revision

12. Call to the Public ~ None

13. Meeting Schedule and Locations

- January 19, 2012 – Phoenix Location TBD

This is the time for the public to comment. Members of the Board may not discuss items that are not on the agenda. Therefore, action taken as results of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter or scheduling the matter for further considerations and decisions at a later date.

*Dated this November 17, 2011
Governor's Forest Health Council
<http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/>*